EPISODE #124 December 15 , 1994

# the valley COIVIC

ENTERTAINMENT LISTINGS!

### STORIES:

USA TODAY
THE HELMSMAN
BRAVE NEWT WORLD
POLITICAL ANIMALS
BEYOND POLITIX
THIS & THAT



# ASIDE

FEATURES: THE FAR SIDE,
DOONESBURY,
CALVIN & HOBBES,
VIEWS OF THE WORLD,
JOE BOB BRIGGS, LEOLD,
THIS MODERN WORLD,
TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT,
MIKE CHRISMAN,
EARTHWEEK,
ECOTOON



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# by Mike Chrisman

Answer Guy is back, with definitive solutions to commonlyasked questions.

Dear Answer Guy,

Q: Why do I so often see only one shoe lying by the side of

A: People who ask this question are missing a really important point: why are there any shoes lying by the side of the road? Hats, OK ... the occasional silk scarf ... leave your window open,

and some lightweight stuff just blows away. But shoes? If you're like me, you've really got to work to get your shoes off — you start trying to balance on one foot, then your laces get all knotted up, and next thing you know, you're sprawled on your bed with a snarl the size of a golf ball. The point is: shoes don't just blow off. I suspect single shoes in the road are deliberately left there as markers for visiting aliens.

Dear Answer Guy,

Q: I walk around thinking that everybody else sees the world through my eyes - like, they all have the same opinions as me. Am I normal?

A: Yep.

Dear Answer Guy,

Q: What's the world coming to, anyway?

A: This important issue will be addressed on a new Fox TV series called "Slots." It's the story of a lovable compulsive gambler who loses his home and family ... but then gets a beautiful woman, a new sidekick, and lots of zany friends through a 12-step program. Check local listings.

Dear Answer Guy,

Q: I'd like to ask a question I used to ask my father, but I never got a satisfactory explanation: Why is the sky blue?

A: If your father had advanced beyond the seventh grade, he could easily have answered this one. Any time you have a gas or a liquid that's very, very deep and very, very heavy, it's going to be blue. There's no reason for it; it just is. For example, the sky, or the ocean. Blue is the color of gas and liquid when it's compressed really, really a lot. See, the sky is pressed on by outer space (which is pretty enormous), so it's blue ... and then it presses down onto the ocean and turns all the water blue, too. If you kept all that air off the ocean, like with big fans, then the ocean would be a gas, too, and much harder to swim in. As you can probably deduce from the above, earth — that is, soil — when compressed by tons and tons of air, turns brown. Of course, if you took the air away, soil would revert to a liquid,

Dear Answer Guy,

and would be blue. Simple physics.

Q: So, Bill Clinton fired Jocelyn Elders as Surgeon General because she suggested biology classes might mention masturbation when they're studying human sexuality. Isn't that kind of overreacting?

A: Get a reality check! Just look at the word's Greek roots. "Mas" means "from the devil." "Turbate" means "violent crime against God." Every religious American knows masturbation has zero place in their life — not in school, not at home, not nowhere. After all, the Iron Curtain fell primarily because Communist governments forced their subjects to learn about masturbation. And never forget this chilling statistic: 98% of America's prison population has learned about masturbation at least once. Do you want your child to grow up to be a devil-worshipping prisoner? I don't think so.

### The Valley Comic News P.O. Box 515, Northampton, MA 01061

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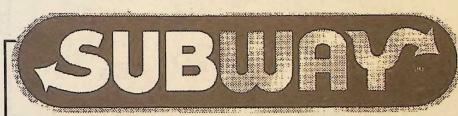
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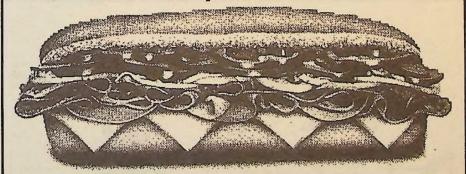
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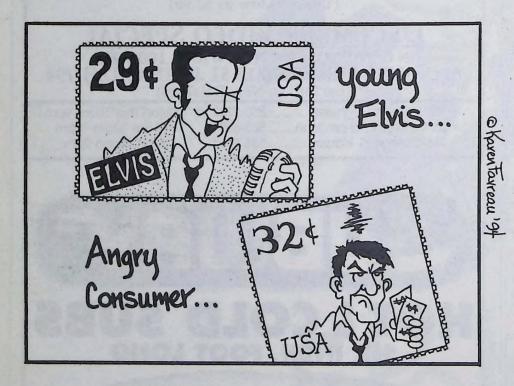
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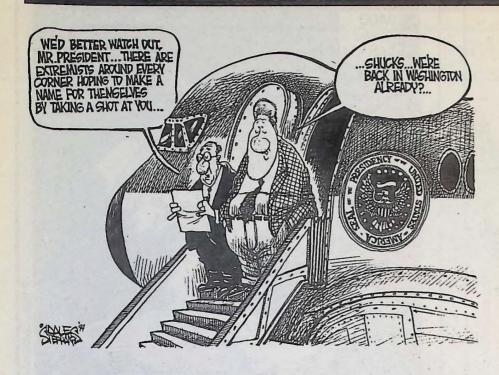
The country's first Indian operated gambling casino, c. 1620

Guess how long it will take before the white man screws us over place bets here

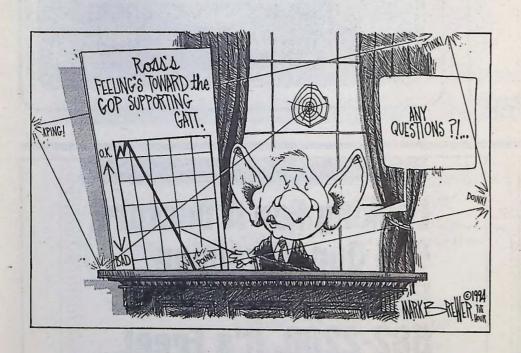




# POLITICAL ANIMALS

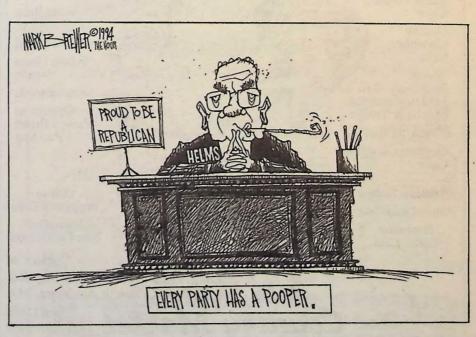


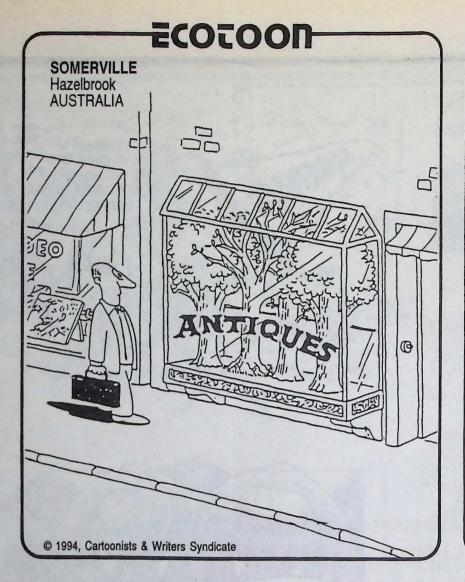














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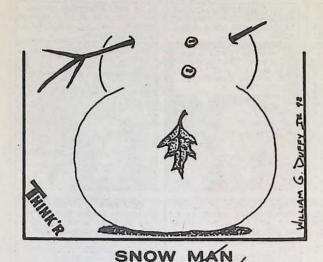
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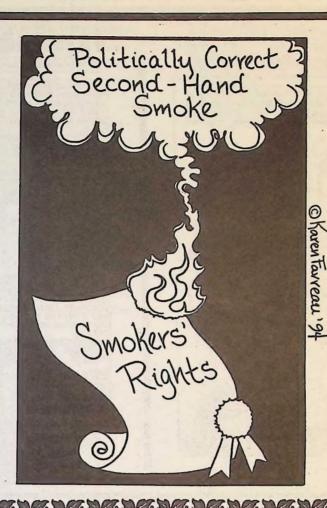
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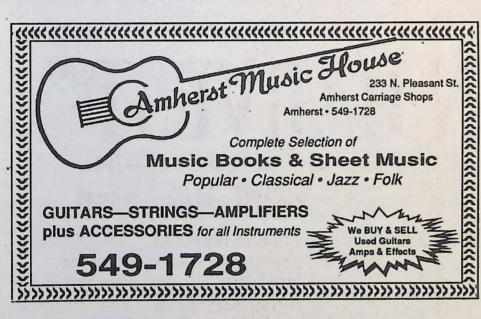
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# THIS MODERN WORLD BY TOM TOMORROW

THIS MODERN WORLD

TOM TOMORROW012-7-94









# This modery world

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# JOE BOB BRIGGS

Any time I go to a new town, I like to drive around, look at the neighborhoods, see how people live ... and I've been noticing something really really strange over the last four, five years.

You really *can't* drive around and look at neighborhoods any more, because there are these high thick *walls* around 'em.

Walls around subdivisions. Walls around the houses inside the subdivisions. Walls around the backyards. Walls around the *front*yards. Walls between the house and the highway, the house and the boulevard, the house and the mall. Some people, to save money on a wall, just build their house right up to the property line, so they don't even *have* a front yard. They probly have some kind of walled courtyard inside the house where they can have barbecues and stuff.

I wonder whether they're hiding from the people *outside* the neighborhood, or whether all the people *inside* the neighborhood are hiding from one another.

The richer the neighborhood, the higher the walls. If you drive through Bel Air, El Lay's billionaire neighborhood, you can't see a *single house*, because the walls are up to twelve feet high, and they line both sides of all the streets. Not that you'd be able to stop anyway. The cops would run you out of there quicker than

the Pope in a Babtist church, if you so much as slowed down. These houses are not to be seen. Eyes forward, young man.

In Malibu, another millionaire haven, you can't even drive into the city. The walls start at the highway. The roads themselves are private.

And it's not just paranoid Californians. You can see it in subdivisions in places like Dallas and Tampa and Des Moines where the houses cost as little as \$80,000 — but part of that money goes to a "privacy fence" or a "security wall."

I don't know what people are thinking, but if they're doing this for safety, then it's a big mistake. If a burglar does show up, all he's got to do is get over the wall, and then he can't be seen from the street. It makes your house more attractive to

a criminal.

If people are doing it for privacy, then, okay, I guess I understand, but wasn't it better when you could sit out on your front porch and look all the way down to the end of the street and see grass and trees and pink flamingos and lawn sprinklers? I mean, how does putting the dang wall up around your property help your life? It just cuts you off from everything you could look at that's halfway attractive, makes you a stranger to your neighbors, and makes you feel like you've crawled into a dark hole.

But I know this is what people want. And what people want is what Realtors will provide.

There was one other time in history when people lived like this. It was the Middle Ages, from about 400 A.D. to 1500 A.D., when people were so afraid that they built castles everywhere, and then built moats around 'em, and then spent huge amounts of money on armies. (Some new modern subdivisions do have moats! I've seen 'em!) We're building the walled castles, and we're building the moats, and we're hiring the armies, in the form of security guards and alarm systems.

But if you go to one of those European castles today, you'll notice that it's only tourists who go *inside* the walls. The Europeans don't live that way any more. They live out in the countryside, where they can see one another.

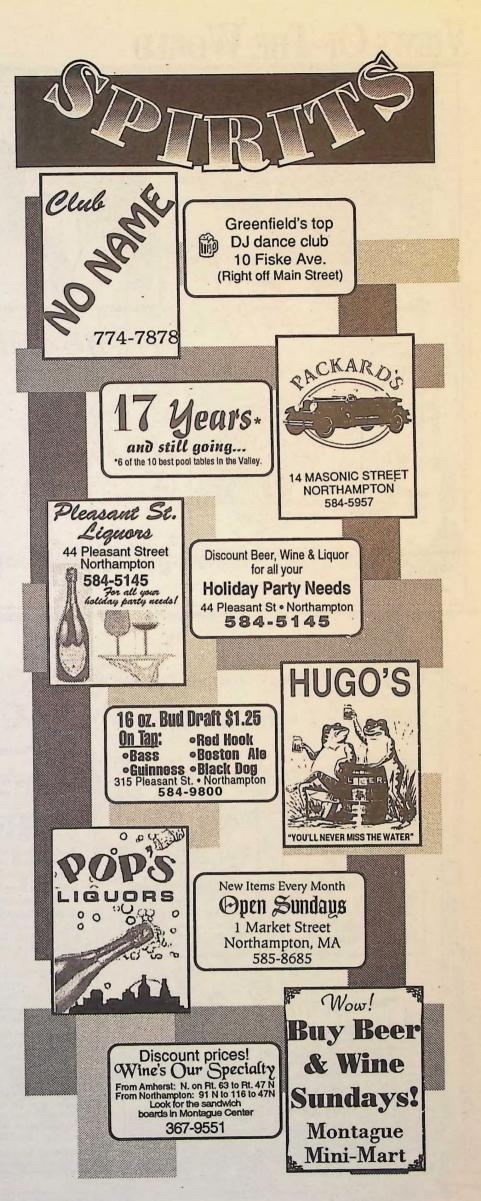
You know why?

They figured out it doesn't work.

It makes you mean and it makes you lonely and it makes you paranoid. It's okay. We'll find out, too.

To discuss the meaning of life with Joe Bob, or to get his world-famous newsletter, write Joe Bob Briggs, PO Box 2002, Dallas, TX 75221. Joe Bob's FAX line is always open: 214-368-2310. COPYRIGHT 1994 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.





# VIEWS OF THE WORLD

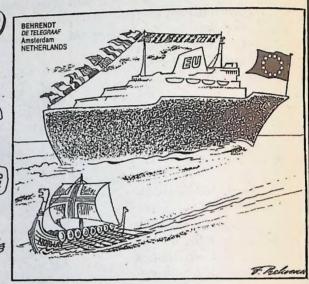












ovatoes Peaches Plums Cherries Strawbe

Sood

Asparagus Broccoli Cauliflower Eggplant



Apples

Pecans

Raisins

Squash Watermelon

Grapes

ANDIAMO!

RISTORANTE

Great

Italian Food

with a view

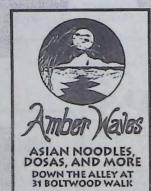
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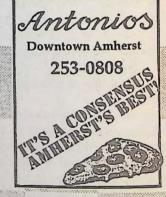
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2 Zucchinni Walnuts Grapes Watermelon

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# BEYOND POLITIX

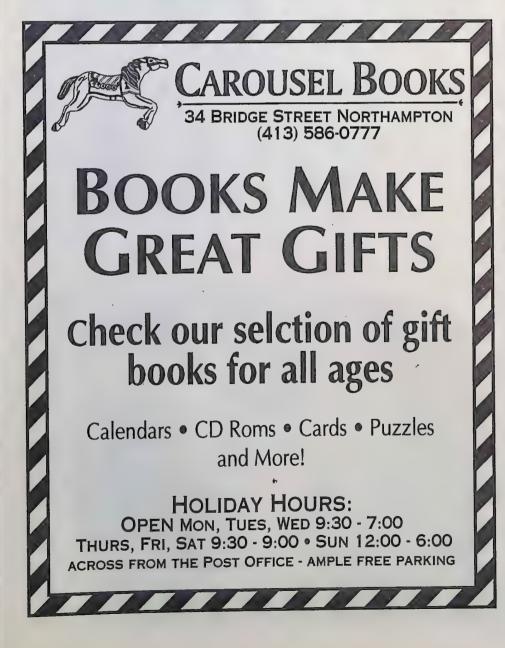


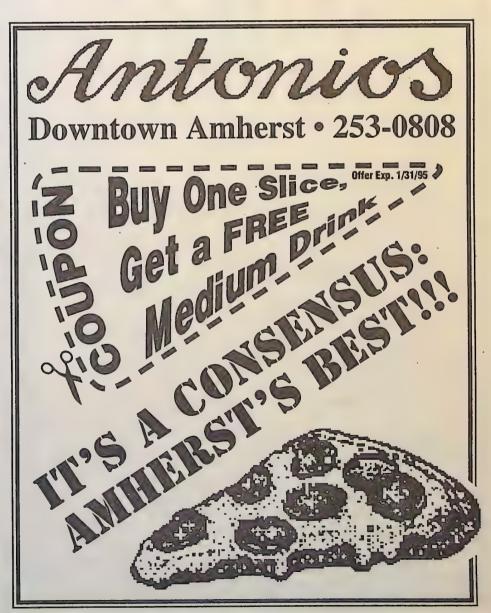


NATE SLOAN, ASTRAL AUTO RACER EXTRAORDARS GRASPING HIS PARADIGM SHIFT, SLAMMING ON HIS PARTICLE ACCELERATOR, ON HIS WAY TOWARD BEING EVERYWHERE, ALWAYS NOW.



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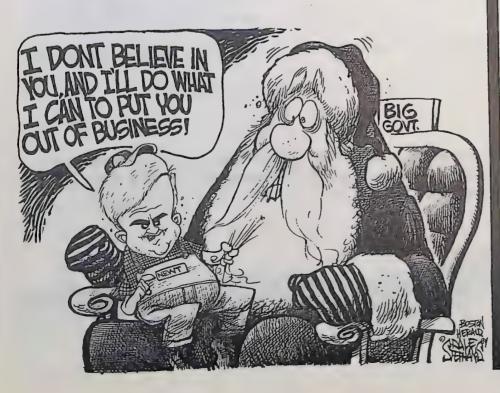




# BRAVE NEWT WORLD











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Wednesday GAY NIGHT Music by Spin Inc.

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Fri., Dec. 16 - 8:30 Pm 18+ RIDERS ON THE **STORM** 

Sat., Dec. 17 - 8:30 Pm JOHNNY COPELAND Sweet Daddy Cool Breeze

Thur., Dec. 22 - All Ages **EXHUMED** 

Wed., Dec. 28 - All Ages SNAP CASE

> Fri., Dec. 30 -18+ **ZOO STATION**

Sat., Dec. 31 DEBBIE DAVIES

Saturday December 31st 10TH ANNUAL TIMES SQUARE NEW YEARS EVE BALL

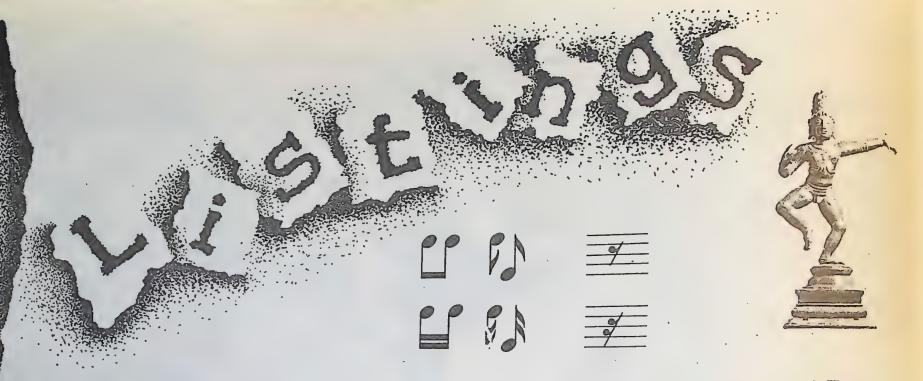
Two Floors Of Entertainment Campagne Toast At Midnight Upstairs - D.J. Lance Downstairs- Debbie Davis

Happy New Year!

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10 Pearl Street, Northampton (413) 584-77<u>7</u>1

The Valley Comic News • December 15, 1994 13



FIFTEEN

Katina's: Ladies Night dance jam Iron Horse: Big Bad Bollocks, plus Klar's Bar 10-1:00 (no cover) Hadley Pub: blues open mic Seven O's: DJ dance club Bay State Hotel: Antietem, Twitch, Tizzy Pearl Street: Sick Of It All, Black Train Jack, Sprong Monkey, Aftershock, plus 18+ dance music by Spin, Inc. North Star: Boyz Night Out, w/ DJ Steven (hat night)

SIXTEEN

Pearl Street: Riders on the Storm, plus Retro night, w/ DJ Dennis Seven O's: Sundown Hotel Northampton: Ed Vadas Academy of Music: The Nutcracker Iron Horse: Charles Neville & Diversity (7pm), Donna Lee (10pm) Bay State Hotel: The Sighs, Amy Fairchild Green River Cafe: Jamawokee Katina's: Rippopotamus, Four Chameleons, plus Top 40 dance party Peking Garden/Humorworks: Shtick & Stones North Star: 18+ dance party, w/ DJ Betsy

SEVENTEEN

Katina's: Selectrocution Bay State Hotel: A night on Scud Mountain, w/ Scud Mountain Boys, Home, Tom Shea Hotel Northampton: Ellen Cogen Hadley Pub: Island dance party w/ DJ JP Pearl Street: Johnny Copeland, Sweet Daddy Cool Breeze, plus dance party w/ DJ Lance North Star: La Folia (flute & guitar), plus dance party, w/ DJ Steven Black Sheep Cafe: Holiday bluegrass jam, w/ members of Maple Ridge Seven O's: Mountain Music Iron Horse: Tony Vacca & The Rhythm Mission, w/ Joe Sallins (7pm), Rent Party, The Maggies (10pm) Green River Cafe: Cathy Winter Academy of Music: The Nutcracker Northampton Center for the Arts: Pioneer Valley Folklore Society presents "The Coming of the Light"

EIGHTEEN

Northampton Brewery: The Slow Band, The Mess Seven O's: open mic, w/ host Mark Snow Hadley Pub: comedy open mic Academy of Music: The Nutcracker North Star: Andrea Nathenson, plus Retro night w/ DJ Betsey Iron Horse: Louise Taylor, Willie Porter Band Katina's: Slowpoke, Shed, Gratitude Northampton Center for the Arts: Black Nativity (2pm)Fire & Water Cafe: open stage (7pm) Bay State Hotel: Blue Monday, w/ Ed Vadas & The

Fabulous Heavyweights Katina's: Gay Nite, plus Monday Nite Funnies Iron Horse: Rhythm & Blues dance party

Northampton Brewery: open mic, w/ host Mike Ruffino Hadley Pub: open mic Bay State Hotel: Holiday pageant, featuring √ Please!

Bay State Hotel: Bay State electric open, hosted by Darwin, String Bean Hadley Pub: Reggae party North Star: C/W dance night Pearl Street: Gay Night — dancing to music by Spin, Inc. Northampton Brewery: Homegrown TWENTYONE night, w/ Under The House Fire & Water Cafe: open poetry mic





Howard Zinn, radical professor/author, speaks at First Churches, Northampton Tobey photo

THU

Pearl Street: Exhumed, plus 18+ dance party, w/ Nick Danger Bay State Hotel: The Veronica Cartwrights, Hair Volume, The Maggies, Toast Katina's: Ladies Night dance jam Iron Horse: DJ dancin' w/ Shaw Nuff North Star: Boyz Nite Out, w/ DJ Steven (Xmas Red 'n' White Drag Ball)

FRI

Bay State Hotel: Dr. Jones, The Thomas Major Loud Trio Hotel Northampton: Mark Nomad North Star: Dance party, w/ DJ Betsey Pearl Street: Retro night w/ DJ Dennis Katina's: Top 40 dance party

SAT

Katina's: Selectrocution North Star: Xmas Eve dinner & dancing w/ family Hadley Pub: Island dance party w/ DJ Dan

SUN

Go celebrate something with somebody you like

MON

Fire & Water Cafe: open stage (7pm) Bay State Hotel: Blue Monday, w/ Ed Vadas & The Fabulous Heavyweights (free!) Katina's: Gay Night, w/ DJ Steve

TUE

Northampton Brewery: open mic w/ host Paul Hansbury Hadley Pub: open mic

WED

Iron Horse: Shtick & Stones Fire & Water Cafe: Open poetry mic (7pm) Bay State Hotel: Bay State electric open (no cover), hosted by High Tide Pearl Street: Gay Night, w/ music by Spin, Inc. Northampton Brewery: Homegrown night, w/ New Horizons Trio Hadley Pub: Reggae party North Star: C & W dancing



### **EARTHWEEK: A DIARY OF THE PLANET**

### Tropical Storms

Tropical storm Gordon left a deadly trail of destruction as it traveled a lengthy path from the southern Caribbean Sea to the North Atlantic. The death toll reached nearly 500 in Haiti alone where rescue workers were being led to bodies by flies swarming over the debris of collapsed structures. Extensive structural and crop damage was also inflicted in Jamaica and Cuba before the storm took aim at Florida. There, Gordon spawned tornadoes — one of which tore a two-mile path through a retirement community near Fort Lauderdale, killing one person and damaging 500 homes.

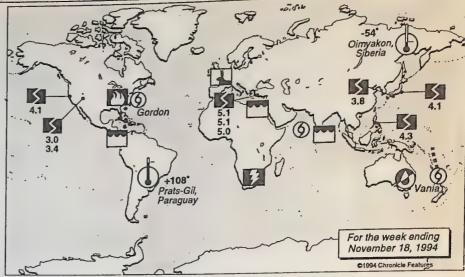
Tropical cyclone Vania, the first of the season in the South Pacific, brought gales and high surf to Vanuatu as it passed around the island chain. A weak and unnamed tropical cyclone moved over the open waters of the Arabian Sea.

### Floods -

As Egypt braced for another round of unseasonably heavy rains, the country's Antiquities Authority announced that the previous week's devastating floods damaged pharaonic inscriptions in the Kamak and Luxor temples. Rains seeping into the structures reacted with the sandstone and caused a white salt film to form on some of the reliefs that record Egypt's ancient past.

Heavy rains on the fringes of tropical storm Gordon unleashed floods that wiped out crops and destroyed houses and bridges from eastern Nicaragua to Panama. Costa Rica also was badly affected, especially the capital San Jose where five people were swept away by raging waters.

The northeast monsoon blowing over the Indian subcontinent triggered torrential rains that left nearly 200,000 Sri Lankans homeless in the country's civil war-torn east.



### Earthquakes

At least 62 people were killed in a major earth-quake that threw huge tidal waves at the popular Philippine resort island of Mindora, about 70 miles south of Manila. Most of the dead lived in coastal areas where whole villages were flattened, coconut trees toppled and fishing boats swept into streets.

A swarm of harmless tremors rattled nerves along Turkey's southwestern coast. Earth movements also were felt in eastern Japan, Utah and northwestern California.

### Fires of Autumn

More than 34,000 acres of Appalachian forest were scorched by wildfires that followed one of the driest Octobers on record. Drenching rains over the region during the week helped forestry officials to bring most of the blazes under control, and to reduce the potential for further outbreaks.

### The Big Dry

The worsening drought ravaging eastern Australia is killing more than just cattle, crops and wildlife, according to the National Farmers' Federation. NFF President Donald McGauchie said the worst drought in the nation's history is also drying up the spirit of farm communities, and causing huge rips in the social fabric of rural Australia. The lack of rain now has kept many farmers from planting summer crops, and forced ranchers to slaughter their livestock early.

Kangaroos, in a desperate search for food and water, are feeding on what few crops that have managed to survive.

### Lightning Deaths

Fourschoolgirls were killed and 12 injured when lightning struck the tent they were sleeping in during a camping trip in Northern Transvaal. An official of the St. Katharine Girls School

said the children were at an annual environmental awareness camp at Bushpig, about 116 miles north of Johannesburg.

### Bunny Barrier

A woman who ended up in a British court because her rabbits mated too noisily agreed to build a garden shed so her neighbors would not have to hear the animals' constant "scratching, thumping and banging." Joyce Hartley of London told the hearing that she would somehow find the funds to build the sound barrier by the end of the month, "even though I have three children and Christmas approaches." Neighbors Ernest and Frances Haskins complained to the crown court that the cavorting rabbits kept them awake at night.

Additional Sources: Fiji Weather Bureau, Egyptian Meteorological Department, Japan Meteorological Agency, U.S. Climate Analysis Center, U.S. Earthquake Information Center and the United Nations World Meteorological Organization.



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### **Eruptions**

The death toll from the eruption of Indonesia's Merapi Volcano during the past week reached 50 as activity from within the mountain slowly subsided. Officials warned residents near Merapi to remain clear of volcanic debris, which may contain deadly sulfur gasses that could be a threat to the region for months to come.

Scientists in Russia's Far East predicted that the recent eruptions of Klyuschevsky Volcano on the Kamchatka Peninsula will have a strong impact on weather patterns across the entire Northern Hemisphere. The climatic disruptions would be caused by massive amounts of volcanic ash, aerosols, and gasses spewed out by the most active volcano in Asia.

Mount Bulosan Volcano in the Philippines' Sorsogon province rumbled back to life for the first time since 1988 with a plum of ash that rained down on six nearby villages.

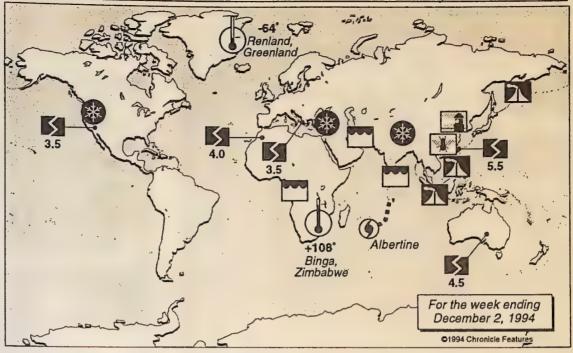
### Fog-Free

Beijing's Capital Airport has developed a scheme that officials believe will dissipate the dense fog that has forced the airport to close several times this month. The Xinhua news agency reported that liquid nitrogen will be sprayed around the runways on foggy days. It's believed that this should cause the fog to freeze into ice flakes that drop to the ground, clearing the air above.

### Earthquakes

One of Australia's strongest earthquakes this year rattled the South Australia coal-mining town of Leigh Creek, but caused no damage.

In an unusually light week for worldwide seismic activity, earth movements also were felt in Taiwan, Morocco, western Greece, and parts of western Arizona.



### Blizzards

Chinese officials declared a disaster area in northern Tibet following a heavy snowfall that threatened starvation for thousands of stranded herdspeople and their cattle. A 20-inch layer of snow covered a vital area of grassland in Damxung County where the nomads had taken their livestock for the winter months.

Blinding snowstorms whipping across eastern Turkey isolated 3,200 villages and forced schools in the region to close. Forty-five teams were said to be working to keep roads open, but some villages could be cut off until early next year.

A powerful winter storm in the western United States closed large stretches of roadway, including a main east-west link of interstate highway near the California-Nevada border. Early winter-like storms have produced the heaviest November snowfall on record in Utah's Wasatch mountain range.

### **Tropical Storms**

Tropical cyclone Albertine, the season's first in the Indian Ocean, formed to the south of Diego Garcia, then lost force as it moved over colder waters.

### Floods

Torrential rains doused Iran for a second week, inundating 19 cities and 700 villages and forcing thousands of residents to navigate streets in boats, or on the tops of busses. The IRNA news agency reported that Ilam, Kermanshah, and Khuzestan provinces were the hardest hit.

Continuing heavy rainfall over Sri Lanka has rendered more than 400,000 people homeless in the east of the island nation. Officials say the heaviest rainfall since 1963 spawned the current floods.

Flash floods in the central Congo swept three children to their deaths in the Mossaka area. Many people have been forced from their homes by the swollen Congo River.

### Fly Fine

The southern Chinese city of Guangshui has launched a controversial campaign that officials hope will force residents to battle the booming city's plague of flies. Heavy fines of up to 2,000 yuan (235 dollars) will be levied for every insect discovered in commercial establishments. The Huangsha Restaurant recently was fined 15,000 yuan when inspectors found dozens of flies hovering on live fowl kept in cages by the door.

During Beijing's bid last year to host the Olympic Games, municipal authorities ordered the number of flies in the capital to be cut to a set level in order to impress the International Olympic Committee delegations.

Additional Sources: Meteo France Forecast Office at Reunion, U.S. Climate Analysis Center, U.S. Earthquake Information Center, and the World Meteorological Organization.



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- Appetizer- Pan Seared Scallop-Cakes served with spicy tomato remoulade.
- Entree- Grilled Filet Wignon stuffed with a wild mushroom duxelle, served with a roasted shallot cabernet wine sauce.
- Entree- Fillo Bundles filled with lobster and leeks in a lemon tarragon cream sauce.
- Entree- Roasted Vegetable Ragout served with wild rice pancakes.
- Entree- Chicken Breast stuffed with sweet sausage, fennel and toasted pistachios, served with a sweet marsala wine sauce.



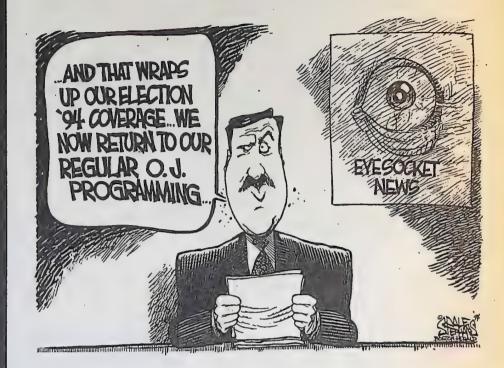


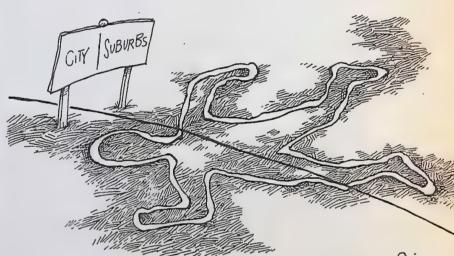
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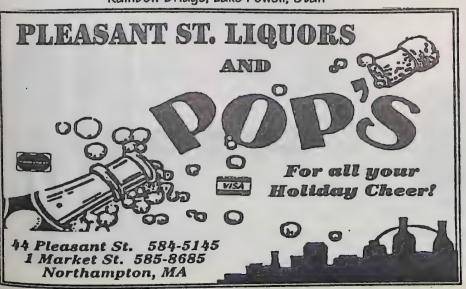
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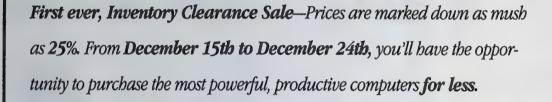
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Q. What's the largest U.S. employer?
A. That temporary help operation,
Manpower. Half its business is
outside the country.

A really obscure baseball statistic: Carl Yastrzemski, Roy Campanella, Ted Kluszewski and Rico Petrocelli are the only major leaguers with at least 10 letters in their names who hit at least 40 home runs in one season.

A car-deer collision is usually worth about \$1,200 at the body shop.

The states with the lowest divorce rates in recent years are, in order: Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York.

We have the term "Herculean task" because the mythological Hercules was once assigned the job of mucking out a stable that had sheltered 3,000 oxen for 30 years without ever being cleaned.

Nationwide, 85% of all police cars are either Ford Crown Victorias or Chevy Caprices.

Humans have more face muscles than any other animal on earth.

Q. How did the ancient Romans multiply in Roman numerals?
A. They didn't. When they wanted to multiply, they used an abacus, then recorded the result in Roman numerals.

"Hyetography" is the study of rainfall.

The journalist Fran Lebowitz said,
"Remember that as a teenager you
are at the last stage in your life when
you will be happy to hear that the
phone is for you."

A white pelican has a 9-foot wingspan.

A sixth of Great Britain's population eats custard at least once a day.

If your ancestors at the start of this century had only one or two household servants, they were categorized by the U.S. Census as "lower middle class."

The carillon is the world's largest musical instrument.

Researchers who study memory loss among the elderly say they find little significant measure of it in deaf societies.

Q. What are the "Bungle Bungles?"
A. A recently-discovered natural wonder in the outback of Australia. It's about 800 square miles of mountainous tiger-striped rocks amidst palm trees and tropical vegetation, clearly out of place in desert country. Atlases showed nothing of it until a couple of years ago. It has now been designated a national park.

Martin Van Buren was the first president born a citizen of the United States.

Frank Sinatra described rock 'n' roll thusly: "The most brutal, ugly, desperate, vicious form of expression it has been my misfortune to hear."

More than 27,000 American skateboarders last year wound up in hospital emergency rooms.

Thirty-somethings are working about the equivalent of one extra month per year more than their parents did.

England and Portugal have never gone to war with each other. They're the two major nations with the longest unbroken peaceful coexistence. Q. Where did the Beautiful People sit before baseball parks had luxurious boxes?

A. Reserved ground where they reined up their horses and watched from their carriages.

Franklin D. Roosevelt hated broccoli, too.

Not until the padded codpiece went out of style in the 16th century did the necktie start to get popular.

In 1858, \$100,000 was a huge fortune. And all Hyman L. Lipman of Philadelphia had to do that year to earn that amount was attach the wellknown eraser to the well-known pencil, patent the combination as his invention, and sell the patent.

A common street greeting in Egypt translates as "How do you sweat?"

Mystery writer Rex Stout said, "My theory is that people who don't like mystery stories are anarchists."

Q. The Biblical Esau sold his birthright for a mess of pottage. What's that?A. Scholars claim it was lentils with lamb and herbs.



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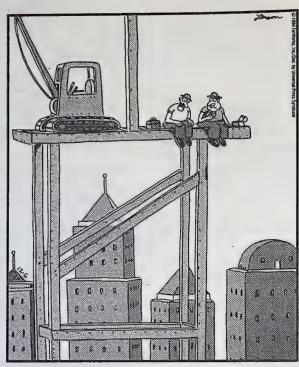


# THE FAR SID

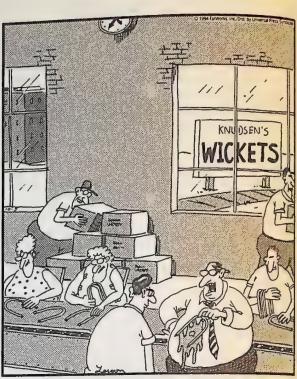
# By GARY LARSON



"But before we begin, this announcement: Mr. Johnson! Mr. Frank Johnson! ... If you're out there, the conference organizers would like you to know that you were never actually invited."



You ever get that urge, Frank? It begins with looking down from 50 stories up, thinking about the meaninglessness of life, listening to dark voices deep inside you, and you think, 'Should I? ... Should I? ... Should I push someone off?"

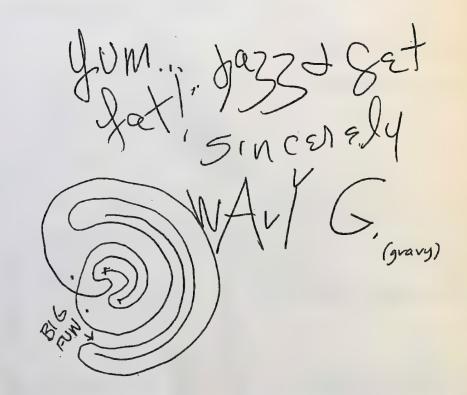


"Well, it came from your division, Sanders, and as you can see, it's covered with honey and molasses! ... You know what that makes this, Sanders?"



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"You folks like flies? Well, wait 'til you see the parlor!"



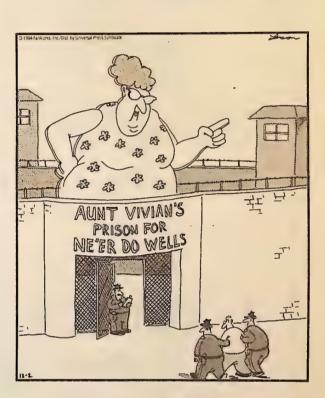
"Well, it was a private table."

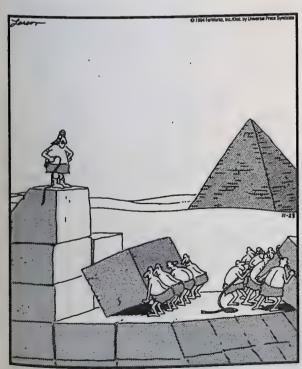


Dogs and alcohol: The tragic untold story.



"I might have missed, Lou, but I take some satisfaction in knowing I busted up their little party."

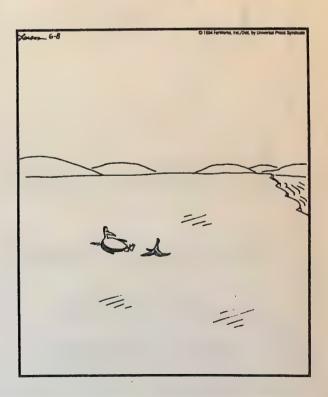




"Remo! Lift with your knees, not your back!"



"OK, you two! Problem solved!"



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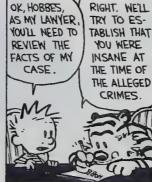




















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